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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/287,304

04/07/1999

AKIRA YAMAMOTO

0941.63012

6149

24978

7590

01/30/2004

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN
300 S WACKER DR
25TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

PIZIALI, JEFFREY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2673

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

29

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/287,304

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Jeff Piziali

Art Unit

2673

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 30 December 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☐ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:


Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: 1-21.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
10. ☐ Other: _____


BIPIN SHRIVASTAVASUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
JAN 29 2004
J.P.

28 January 2004

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:

Applicants' arguments filed 30 December 2003 (Paper No. 28) have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive. The applicants contend Youn (US 5,856,816) teaches a plurality of blocks on two opposing (i.e. top and bottom) edges of an LCD panel, and not along a single edge of the panel. However, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Youn's LCD panel [Fig. 2; 1] inherently has, for instance, both a "front edge" and a "back edge" (corresponding to the front and backside of the LCD panel [Fig. 2; 1]). These two (front and back) edges are in addition to the top, bottom, left, and right panel edges illustrated in Youn's Figure 2. Furthermore, Youn teaches a data driver [Fig. 2, 2a & 2b] being divided into blocks [Fig. 2, D1-D2n] which drive odd data lines [Fig. 2; D1, D3, ..., D2n-1] and even data lines [Fig. 2; D2, D4, ..., D2n] respectively. Along the top portion of the front edge of Youn's LCD panel [Fig. 2, 1], odd-numbered data lines [Fig. 2; D1, D3, ..., D2n-1] are arranged adjacent to each other. Along the bottom portion of the same front edge of this LCD panel, even-numbered data lines [Fig. 2; D2, D4, ..., D2n] are arranged adjacent to each other (see Column 1, Line 10 - Column 2, Line 20).

The applicants argue current claims "utilize the term 'edge' to refer to the area of external periphery of a flat panel liquid crystal display" (see Top Paragraph, Page 3, Paper 28), and dispute the examiner's interpretation of the term. However, the examiner is relying upon the ordinary meaning of "edge," and finds no contradiction between this meaning and the presently pending claim limitations. The front planar portion/edge of Youn's LCD panel [Fig. 2; 1] fully qualifies as an "external periphery" (i.e. surface of a solid). Moreover, Youn's front portion/edge certainly constitutes a physical "boundary" or "extremity" (definitions relied upon by the applicants themselves in Paper No. 28) of the LCD panel. The applicants hold that a "flat, planar surface" cannot constitute an edge. However, the applicants' own data driver blocks [Fig. 4; 46A-D] are themselves positioned along a "flat, planar surface" (see Figs. 4 & 20; Page 7, Lines 1-12). Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would construe each of Youn's front, back, top, bottom, left, and right LCD panel portions as being "edges."

The applicants also argue Youn's odd and even drivers [Fig. 2; 2a and 2b] are positioned away from the LCD panel [Fig. 2; 1] — and not on the panel, as claimed. However, again the examiner must respectfully disagree. The applicants' own invention teaches display signal lines [Fig. 4; 64A-D] being an integral part of the data driver blocks [Fig. 4; 46A-D] (Page 7, Lines 1-12). Similarly, along the top portion of the front edge of Youn's LCD panel [Fig. 2, 1], odd-numbered data lines [Fig. 2; D1, D3, ..., D2n-1] are arranged adjacent to each other. And along the bottom portion of the same front edge of this LCD panel, even-numbered data lines [Fig. 2; D2, D4, ..., D2n] are arranged adjacent to each other (see Column 1, Line 10 - Column 2, Line 20).

By such reasoning, the rejection of the claims is deemed proper and thereby maintained.